

Master Implementation Sequencing Plan (MISP), Consultation with Task Force





COMPREHENSIVE **EVERGLADES** RESTORATION PLAN

General Comments

- MISP Document should clarify rationale for changes to 1999 plan
- MISP document should include model runs of performance based on sequencing plan
- Corps must ensure timely completion of Modified Water Deliveries and C-111
- Inclusion of acceler8 program pushes non Everglades projects ahead of those vital to restoration and could actually cause Everglades restoration projects to languish for lack of money and focus.

General Comments

- Inclusion of Acceler8 projects in new MISP for SFWMD construction is inconsistent with WRDA 2000 direction for Secretary of Army to construct.
- Funding impacts caused by acceler8 changes the entire cost share arrangement with the State
- No analysis is provided of the new working arrangements between state and Federal government for Acceler8 projects

Land Acquisition Related Comments

- The MISP must account for development pressure and rising land values in sequencing components.
- Funding for land acquisition should continue to be front-loaded, and made available throughout implementation to purchase land necessary to meet all restoration objectives, including increasing the spatial extent of wetlands and other habitat.
- Regulations, permitting practices, and management plans should be developed to prevent development that is inconsistent with restoration goals from occurring, either within or adjacent to project study areas and footprints.

Consultation and Public Involvement Comments

- Development and inclusion of the acceler8
 projects into the MISP is inconsistent with the
 Task Force consultation requirements of the
 programmatic Regulations.
- Corps has not consulted with Miccosukee Tribe of Indians on inclusion of Acceler8 into MISP.
- Development and inclusion of Acceler8
 program was done behind closed doors and is
 inconsistent with the programmatic regulations
- Use of MISP team to make policy decisions appears to be a FACA violation

NEPA Related Comments

- MISP document should include appropriate NEPA analysis and document for review
- There is a violation of NEPA by not preparing Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on inclusion of State's accelerate plan and impacts to 1999 sequencing plan
- Draft MISP must comply with the Endangered Species Act.

Environmental Comments

- Draft MISP significantly delays implementation of large portions of expected CERP ecological benefits and compromises ability to achieve restoration.
- Sequencing plan does not halt decline of existing wildlife habitat for threatened and endangered species and will further endanger those species due to loss of habitat.
- Sequencing plan will interfere with goal of increasing spatial extent of wetland areas.
- Significant adverse impacts to species due to current sequence which postpones critical land acquisition.

Evaluation Comments

- Use of 1999 benefit analysis does not allow cost effective benefit analysis of revised sequencing plan
- Since 1999 sequencing is used to establish interim goals and targets, there can be no connection between the revised MISP and the interim goals and targets
- Savings Clause analysis is needed for each project under new sequencing plan to ensure no violation of the WRDA 2000 clause

Evaluation Comments

- Implementation of L-31N Seepage management pilot and WCA Seepage Management must adequately protect Biscayne Bay resources
- Implementation of Decomp components, such as canal filling, must follow other components that offset any potential adverse impacts to water supply for Miami-Dade area

Project Sequencing

- Additional Projects that should be included in Band 1
 - Miami Dade Seepage Management
 - Portions of Bird Drive Recharge
 - Remaining Part of EAA, Biscayne Bay
 Coastal Wetlands, and C-111 spreader
 - Waste Water Reuse Pilot

Project Sequencing

- Projects that should be accelerated in overall schedule:
 - Acquisition of IRL Natural Areas
 - Acquisition of Bird Drive lands
 - Construction of Portions of Decomp
 - Construction of Tamiami Trail Culverts
 - Development of Tentatively Selected Plan for Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands

